Stream of Dreams

The Shimanto River

Coming down from the skies,
Shading mountains to green,
Colouring the seasons, fulfilling our lives,
On the river flows.
Reflecting the blue of the sky,
On toward the sea,
Rising toward the skies,
Waters stream, waters flow,
The clear waters of Shimanto River.
The 196-kilometer Shimanto is said to be the last clear river in Japan, and it is also the longest in Shikoku Island. People have lived beside it throughout history; their lives attuned to the slower pace of nature. The Shimanto River basin has been selected as an Important Cultural Landscape by the national government. Shimanto Time passes by softly and gently, just as it does over the surface of its fresh waters.
Flowers of the four seasons blossoming by the clear stream

**Shimantogawa "Hanaemaki" (Flower Festivals)**

**Rape Flowers**
- Early April
- "Lies in the Park in Nakaoka"
- This 2km stretch of natural willow-butterfly is surrounded by beautiful, fragrant, yellow rape flowers. Some evenings the path and floral display are lit with lanterns and candles.

**Cherry Blossom**
- Mid-March to early April
- "Nashige" Park
- One of the最后 displays of cherry blossom. During the festival, lanterns are lit so the blossoms can be viewed after dark.

**Azalea**
- March to late April
- "Nakamura" Park
- Thesearticles, giving a breath to the southern edge of the river. The festival is held in April.

**Water Lilies**
- Early May to mid-October
- "Gokayama" Park
- Every morning, the beautiful water lilies open, looking very fresh. Afternoon, the water lilies close up. Their light is beautiful, and the flowers attract insects and insects are drawn to the children.

**Japanese Iris**
- Late May to early June
- "Nakamura" Park
- Ten thousand iris bloom along a rural forest landscape, creating a sight that is common everywhere.

**Red Spider Lilies**
- Late May to early June
- "Miyajishima" Park
- Red spider lilies bloom across the river, attracting many visitors to come and see them.

**Glossary of Shimantogawa Regional Events**

**Kawarazaka "Village Festival**
- June 30
- In the Kawarazaka area, enjoy camping, try your hand at herbal dyeing and taste homemade local food. All the family can enjoy this Shimantogawa "Village Festival".

**Himekawa "Okuribi" (Flower Bonfire Event)**
- July 16 (by the ancient calendar)
- This spectacular event is held in Himekawa, in Nakaoka, a 100m-long flower bonfire, symbolizing the end of summer for "Little Kyoto". Nakaoka.

**Kokkuri-dances in Yamachi**
- mid-October
- A local custom, passed down from the "Katagiri Period. The traditional dance, using two poles, has been designated as "Shimotsuke Folk Culture Prophecy" into "Shinshu Oku Kyo".

**Wisteria**
- April
- "Kitamoto" Park
- At Kitamoto Temple, known as Takubou-ji, wisteria blooms. All year round, the open branches are covered with flowers, adding color and beauty to the landscape.

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**Shinroku Civic Festival (Dancing and Lantern float parade)**
- 1st Saturday of August
- The start of the summer season in Nakaoka, "Himekawa "Village Festival", with Nakamura dancing and lanterns floating down the stream.

**Ancient Memorial Service in Gardes**
- August 15
- A hundred hours of service in honor of deceased ancestors, held since 1899, with memorial ceremonies at the shrine to the accompaniment of bells and drums. Prayers are offered for those who have died in the last year and are offered to the god (hungry spirits).

**Shimantogawa Ultra Marathon**
- mid-October
- One of Japan's major ultramarathon events, this race takes place along the Shimantogawa River valley, offering runners a beautiful course across rolling hills and lush woodlands.

**Opening of the sweetfish (Ochii Awa) season**
- December 1
- For conservation reasons, fishing of Ochii-Awa (sweetfish) is not allowed during the season. This opening day of the season attracts fishermen from around the prefecture to Koda, Prefecture's River Shimantogawa River.

**Kappo Festival (Kappo "Fruit Forest" dancing)**
- Every four years, April 15
- In the afternoon, the "Yuki" dance is performed in Nakaoka, and the "Himekawa" dance is performed in Himekawa.

**Shimantogawa River Swimming Marathon**
- 1st Saturday of August
- The only swimming marathon in Japan, participants can choose from two courses, depending on their fitness. How about swimming with swimmers in the Shimantogawa River?

**Shimantogawa River Bōshiki" (Three bridges)"**
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Relax amid the idyllic pastoral setting of the Shimanto valley, which has hardly changed in centuries.

Boat Tours on the Shimanto River

Enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Shimanto River valley, breathe the sweet clean air and see interesting sights such as traditional fishermen at work. Boat tours, including the traditional white-crafted Senba boats, are operated on a regular timetable and boats can also be chartered for private hire. Tours including a meal on board are also available by reservation only.

Regular Tours: Depart every other hour.
On demand tours: Boats can depart at any time – it’s best to book in advance.
Fares: Adults 2,000 yen (Senba 2,500 yen) Children (7-12 years) 1,000 yen (Senba 1,250 yen)
Please note: Tours may be cancelled due to bad weather. For further information English-speakers should contact Shimanto City Tourism Association.

1. Shimanto River
   0880-35-2024
   Himeji-shi, Shimanto City
   On demand tours (reservations required during the booking period)

2. Shimanto Katsura
   0880-35-2078
   Ichinomiya, Shimanto City
   Tour departs: 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM

3. Shimanto River
   0880-35-2000
   Minato, Shimanto City
   Regular tours: 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM

4. Esaki Tashido
   0880-35-2321
   Minato, Shimanto City
   On demand tours

5. Sakuya
   0880-51-47023
   Suda, Shimanto City
   On demand tours

6. Senba
   0880-35-2227
   Suda, Shimanto City
   Regular tours in the period of March 20 - November 30

7. Saneshima
   0880-35-0022
   Suda, Shimanto City
   On demand tours

Shimantogawa Katsura Kanazawa
   0880-35-2227
   Yamechi, Shimanto City
   Regular tours from 9:30 AM

Kosanjō Waterfall Park
The public park surrounding Kosanjō Temple is an ideal place for hiking and enjoying nature. The temple is famous for its 300-year-old plum blossoms, and 44 stone lanterns is a popular spot for taking photographs. The park is open all year round.

Shimantogawa Wild Bird Nature Park
A paradise for wildfowl lovers, the Shimanto River is one of the best places in Japan for birdwatching. The park is open all year round.

Yasunami Waterwheels
An ancient canal (Yasunami hohe) was constructed by Kinsen Minato to bring water to the fields. Waterwheels automatically control the flow of water from the canal to the rice paddies. It is beautifully maintained. The waterwheels are always in operation, dependant on the water supply.

Kawaragiko (canoeing and camping)
Shimanto Canoeing and Camp on Sen (canoeing) can be enjoyed by boat in the Shimanto River's rich natural setting. Beginners are welcome to try canoeing. There are 2 campsites, each with an on-site canoe. For more information, visit Shimanto-gawa Ringu-Cycle shower facilities, baby change facilities, toilet facilities, play area, baby change facilities, and playground. Open: October 14, 2015 - March 15, 2016

Motor camping "Tomarotto"
Iwa-Usenai Great Park
A new, campsite, motor camping area, the Shimanto River mouth, overlooking the Pacific Ocean, which was opened in May 2015. Campsite can be found on Shimanto-gawa Ringu-Cycle. The campsite is open all year round.

Canoe Kani (canoeing and camping)
Hall on full-day canoeing courses for all levels, including beginners. An exhibition of canoes from all over the world. Shimantogawa Ringu-Cycle offers a bike rental. For more information, please contact Shimanto City.

Shimanto Yubari
Surfing beaches
The Shimanto River's beaches are popular for surfing. The Shimanto River is one of the best places in Japan for surfing. The beach is open all year round.

Shimantogawa Camping Grounds
Located on the Shimanto-gawa Ringu-Cycle, the camping grounds are open all year round. For more information, please contact Shimanto City.
Nakamura ‘Little Kyoto of Tosa’
After his father’s death, Ichijō left Kyoto to take possession of Hata Manor (the present Shimanto City) in 1648. He was succeeded by Fusaie Ichijō, his second son, who then became known as Lord Ichijō. For the next 400 years, the area was ruled by the Ichijō family.

History of the Ichijō Family

Hikitsuki Funato

Located on the eastern outskirts of Uchikami, Nakamura, Funato stands as a port for riverboats, the main form of transport at the time. Many inns and wharves were built in this area and during the Edo period, Chief Minister Kawanishi Yoritomo used to live nearby.

Sakuramachi

The district was home to the chief ministers of the Yamashita Family.

Ruins of Konyamachi

During the most prosperous days of the Yamashita period, many Yamaichi (saw shops) were set up, and this area became a centre of commerce.

Grave of Masatoyo (Yoshiiyo) Yamauchi

Second generation lord of the Nakamura-Yamauchi clan. Masatoyo died in 1630. He was buried near the old Myōju Temple, in modern-day Kamikochimachi. The temple is now gone, but the grave remains on the mountaintop.

Graves of Maeda Tadamoto (Yoshiiyo) Yamauchi

The grave stands among huge cedar and cypress trees, and was the site of a Buddhist temple until the Meiji period.

Ruins of Hata County Magistrate’s Office

In 1650 Lord Tadasuo Yamauchi moved into this Nakamura manor. In 1659, when the Hata County was incorporated into the Kochi main clan, this building became the Hata County Magistrate’s Office.

Fuba Hachiman Shrine

A National Designated Important Cultural Property, built between 1648 and 1674. The shrine is an offshoot of the Ichijō Rice Temple. The shrine is a fine example of Mochaiden Period architecture, featuring a main hall roofed with wooden shingles and built in the sango-shiogami style. Don’t miss this outstanding remnant of medieval Japan.

Shimanto City Historical Museum

A museum built in the style of a traditional castle, located in the ruins of Nakamura Castle (Yamamachi Park) containing many precious exhibits such as the Sagoni Bar (pregnant women and child) dated to the 18th century. The lower ground floor contains a permanent exhibit of local history. Don’t miss this unforgettable remnant of Yamaichi.

Grave of Princess Tamahime

The daughter of the Forty-Second Shogun’s younger brother, the Imperial Prince, Princess Tamahime came to Tosa as a hostage. After her marriage, she lived here.

Karumon Shrine

Set on a steep hillside, the shrine stands among huge cedar and cypress trees. It is said that a stone in the shape of a carved dragon is held by this shrine.

Ichiho Shrine

Built in 1862 in honour of Lord Anjiro, a founder of the culture and economy of the Nakamura district. Inside the grounds of this shrine are the Kacho no do (a well) and memorial stone of Lord Ichiho.

Shimanto History Museum

The Shimanto History Museum is located in the ruins of Nakamura Castle (Yamamachi Park) and contains many precious exhibits such as the Sagoni Bar (pregnant women and child) dated to the 18th century. The lower ground floor contains a permanent exhibit of local history. Don’t miss this unforgettable remnant of Yamaichi.

Shinshichi Higuchi

Shinshichi Higuchi was born in Hata county of Nakamura, the son of a common soldier. He travelled widely, and became expert in Japanese fencing, also learning archery, and gunnery. At 24 he returned to Nakamura to open a martial arts school with over 1000 students. Later Shinshichi served as an official in local government. A leader of the Kintō Confederation, a traditionalist movement in the west of Tosa, he argued for restraint. In 1868 he fought in the Boshin War which overthrew the shogunate and restored power to the Emperor. He subsequently held high offices in the national government in Tokyo where he died at the age of 56.

Shinshichi Higuchi

Born to a wealthy merchant’s family of Nakamura, Kotozuk was a bright student and in 1837 he moved to Tokyo to study under leading political figures. He worked as a newspaper correspondent and became active in the socialist movement, publishing several books such as “Shakai Shugi Shinron” (The Essence of Socialism). In 1917, he was executed on suspicion of involvement in a plot to assassinate the Emporer, but in recent years, Kotozuk’s socialist ideologies have become more respectable and he is now thought he played no active role in the plot. In December of 2000, Nakamura city assembly recognized the injustice by making the official “Resolution to Honour Shusui Kotozuk”. Every year on the anniversary of his death a memorial service is held at his grave.

Shusui Kotozuk

1871 - 1911
Dragonfly Kingdom (Tombo Okoku)
Shimanto City Dragonfly Nature Park
The four seasons of (the Dragonfly Kingdom)

Dragonflies are a symbol of water purity

- The basis of the Shimanto River is blessed with clear waters and an unpolluted environment, so that dragonflies abounds here. Shimanto Dragonfly Kingdom (Shimanto Dragonfly Nature Park) boasts 76 different species, with more different species per hectare than any other park in Japan. Visit from early spring to late autumn, to watch these beautiful creatures in flight and at rest.

Draygonfly Pavilion

The world’s largest collection of dragonflies—3,000 specimens of over 100 species—as well as movie presentations on the life of dragonflies and samples of other insects around the world.

Shimantogawa Gakuikan (Akitusu)

The name Akitusu is made up from the Akiti the old Japanese word for dragonfly, and -isu which, in the dialect of this region means fish. The staff of Dragonfly Kingdom, out of love and appreciation for both dragonflies and fish, have pooled their efforts to collect the vast number of species which makes this outstanding collection. Consider the dedication to nature which has created this exhibition, and listen to the return message of encouragement for nature conservation. Why not visit Akitusu after strolling by the river, to make a perfect day on the banks of the Shimanto.

Address: 803-3 Ono, Shimanto City
TEL: 0808-37-4111
FAX: 0808-37-4113
Open: 9:00 - 17:00
Closed: Mondays (If Monday is a public holiday, it will open that day and close on Tuesday instead)

Adults: (over 18) 860 yen
Groups 670 yen
3 high and high school students 600 yen
Groups 350 yen
Children (age 4 and under, school students) 330 yen
Groups 250 yen

(A group must be a party of 20 persons or more)

Parking lot available
http://www.gakuikan.com/dragonfly
Email: shiman@shinkyoako.com

Fishing Pavilion

360 fresh and brackish water fish species from all over the world, including 136 local to Shimanto, make this the most extensive breeding collection of such fish in Japan. Try feeding the giant fish patronus for a truly big experience!

For dragonfly watching, sunny weather and the morning hours are the best!

Japanese lotus

Sanson Health Center

Set on a hill which has views of the Shimanto River, the center is close to Caroe Kan and a perfect base for outdoor activities. Enjoy dishes prepared with local products such as wild vegetables and freshwater fish.

Address: 1105-1 Nichinaga Mochi, Shimanto City
TEL: 0880-52-3142
Open: April to September 15:00-21:00
October to March 15:00-20:00
Admission: Adult: 550 yen.
Children or Guests above age 65: 200 yen

Country Life Experience Center

House of Minehage, etc.

Various routes around the Nichinaga area, can be rented by families and groups, or used for training courses. These traditional houses, equipped with kitchen facilities, have been fully renovated so visitors can stay in comfort. Rent a whole house and experience the peaceful country life.

Contact: Caroe Kan
TEL: 0880-52-2121
FAX: 0880-52-2424
Blessings from mountain, river and sea.

**Shimanto Chestnuts**
Chesnuts nourished by the clear Shimanto waters are particularly large, their flavour sweet and rich.

**Yuzu (Japanese citrus fruit)**
Kochi Prefecture is well-known for Yuzu, and Shimanto, with its fresh air and water and organic farms, is a major region of production. Yuzu miso pastes and jams are among the most popular and typical of local foods.

**Wild Vegetables**
Wild plants from Shimanto’s mountains and valleys have long been known to be both tasty and nutritious. They remain an important part of the local diet, prepared using many traditional recipes.

**Wild Vegetable Sushi**
Two kinds of maki (makazushi and Sansai-zushi) made from habana (rape flower buds), mugwort-ginger, bamboo shoots, komatsuna (devil’s tongue cake) and other wild vegetables. This simple, homely sushi is an ancient local tradition.

**Sake**
Delicious sake is made with utmost care from the finest rice and the clearest mountain water.

**Rice**
Water flows from the high mountains, via the streams and tributaries of the Shimanto River into the rice paddies, to produce “Mountains Valley Rice”. Sweet, firm and moin with its fine aroma, and superb preserved, this rice embodies the natural richness of Shimanto region.

Cuisine of the Shimanto River, made with fresh local ingredients from this rich natural environment and always served with traditional warm hospitality.

**Wild sweetfish**
The flavour of sweetfish varies depending on the different kinds of riverweed they eat. Sweetfish from the Shimanto is called the “bream fish” because when freshly caught it smells of watermelon, and the taste of the cooked fish recalls the scent of a clear stream.

**Wild eel**
Eels are caught by the traditional local methods of Karabashi (using baited traps) and Hiyagai (using a stone-slice line) to provide dishes with the typical Shimanto River flavour.

**Suji aonori (a kind of green seaweed)**
Growing only in the coldest months of December to March in the breach reaching the river, this seaweed from the Shimanto is a gourmet delicacy prized for its superb quality and takes a 90% share of the domestic market.

**Hitoegusa (a kind of green seaweed)**
Hitoegusa, hand-picked at the Shimanto River mouth where fresh and salt waters merge, has a rich aroma, a fresh flavour and a tender, fluffy-sweet texture.

**River shrimps**
The long-armed Shimanto River shrimps have a firm texture and, when grilled, a fine flavour and aroma.

**Japanese mitten crab**
The Shimanto River mitten crab is related to the famous and expensive Shanghai crab. The rich dense meat and the shell are ground together to make Tsukudani (marinated crab paste). Local people call this Tsukudani and enjoy it in soup.

**Goby**
In March, when the river temperature begins to rise, the goby-fishing season starts. The appearance of this popular seasonal speciality marks the arrival of spring around the Shimanto River.

**Goby-fish cooked in soy sauce**

**Ganermi (miten crab paste)**